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REMARKS

Claims 2 to 12, 32 and 33 are pending.

Claims 1 and 13 to 31 are cancelled. Claim 32 and 33 are new.

Claims 2 to 5 and 8 to 12 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cowdery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,445,511). Cowdery et al. relates to a pacer electrode connector assembly that "is not molded around metal termination blocks. Instead, the plastic connector body is molded separately (although not necessarily as a single integral element)." At column 7, lines 36 to 48, this reference describes that the "metal termination blocks are attached to the lead-throughs and only then are the plastic parts of the connector body put into place. The four termination blocks are assembled onto the pulse generator case and are supported in space on their respective connecting wires. The plastic connector body parts are then slid over and onto the preassembled components, with all voids being filled or coated with standard medical-grade sealant/adhesive." Two embodiments of Cowdery et al.'s invention are illustrated; the first is in Figs. 6 and 7A-7E, the second in Figs. 8 - 9E.

In contrast, independent claim 2 has been amended to call for the body being of a unitary, plastic construction. Support for this is found in the specification beginning at page 14, line 14 with respect to Figs. 11 and 12. There, a

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book mold is described for molding any one of the described header assemblies 10, 150 and 200. The book mold comprises first and second mold portions 252 and 254 hinged to each other. The second mold portion 254 is described as having posts 258 and 260 on which the terminal blocks 262 and 264 are supported. The "posts 258 and 260 coincide with the passageways through which the welds between the feedthrough wires and the terminal blocks are made . . . and the apertures which receive the set screws for securing the electrical connector between the lead of a co-axial conductor and the terminal blocks . . .". These passageways are those set forth in amended independent claim 2 as the second and fourth passageways.

The applicants' specification continues by describing that a "pin 266 having the shape of the lead of a co-axial conductor is positioned in the second mold portion 254 received in the respective terminal blocks 262 and 264. Inserts 268 and 270 are supported on the second mold portion 254 abutting the shaped pin 266 from the back of the mold portion, i.e., that portion of the mold lying in the plane of the paper for Fig. 11 and extending toward the reader. These inserts 268, 270 coincide with passageways 182, 184 for the header assembly 150. The second mold portion 254 is then secured to the first mold portion 252 to provide a cavity having the shape of the to be manufactured header assembly."

In that respect, the pin 266 occupies the space corresponding to the "first bore communicating from outside the polymeric body to the first and second lead openings (of

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the respective first and second electrically conductive terminals) aligned in a first co-axial relationship". The inserts 268 and 270 occupy the space inside the mold claimed as the first and third passageways. This is further delineated in new claim 32 where first and second feedthrough wires extending from the medical device are connectable to the first and second terminals through the respective first and third passageways. Finally, that the first mold portion is secured to the second mold portion to form a cavity inside the book mold having the shape of the header is sufficiently clear to one skilled in the art to teach that the polymeric body supports and completely encases the first and second terminals except for the previously described and claimed passageways and bores leading to the first and second terminals. Admittedly, Cowdey et al.'s connector assembly does not function in this manner.

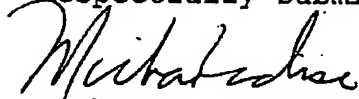
Thus, amended independent claim 2 is believed to be patentable over the cited prior art patent. Claims 3, 4, 6 to 12, 32 and 33 are allowable as hinging from a patentable base claim.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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